Section II:

AMENDMENT to the SPECIFICATION

Please amend the TITLE to read as follows:

~~System and Method for~~ Online Offer and Bid Management with Sealed Bids

Please amend the ABSTRACT to read as follows:

A ~~network~~ computer system <u>for</u> ~~and method in which~~ a manufacturer or service provider <u>to</u> ~~may~~ communicate goods or services which are available for bidding by bidders ~~. The bids received from the bidders are intended to be sealed bids, and most often to be single instance sealed bids. The invention collects the sealed bids from the bidders and maintains them as inaccessible from the traders and online system administration staff until certain conditions, such as expiration of a bidding time window, have been met. Following the meeting of the predetermined conditions, the bids are unsealed, either by administrator command or automatically, and made available and accessible to the traders and system administration staff. The system and method prevents potential security and confidentiality problems with online sealed bid systems, and protects the integrity of the sealed bid collection process.~~ <u>that provides collected bids in a bid database, the bids each having an associated seal status indication field; queries the bid database for unsealed bids which match parameters of a Broker Profile Matrix associated with a trader console, the trader console comprising an intermediary third party user console communicably disposed between a bidder user console and broker user console, operates to buy products or services from the broker user console</u>

and to resell the bought products and services to the bidder user
console; responsive to finding matching unsealed bids, delivers
the matching unsealed bids to the trader console wherein delivery
of delivery of sealed bids to the trader console is prevented; and
displays on the trader console the delivered matching unsealed
bids to a trader console user.

Please amend paragraph 0035 (as numbered in the pre-grant publication) to read as
follows:

[0035] In order to address the aforementioned needs in the art, ~~the
present invention provides~~ a network computer arrangement and
method for ~~in which~~ a manufacturer or service provider to ~~may~~
communicate goods or services which are available for bidding ~~.
The system and method allows traders to offer those goods or
services in offerings to brokers in response to which the brokers
may place bids. In this system and method, the bids received from
the broker are intended to be sealed bids, and most often intended
to be single instance sealed bids. The system and method collects
the sealed bids from the brokers, and keeps the bids inaccessible
from the brokers, traders and other system operations personnel
until certain conditions have been met. Following the meeting of
the predetermined conditions, the bids are automatically unsealed
and made available and accessible to the traders. In this way, the
system and method prevents potential security and confidentiality
problems with online sealed bid systems, and protects the integrity
of the sealed bid collection process.~~ provides collected bids in a
bid database, the bids each having an associated seal status
indication field; queries the bid database for unsealed bids which
match parameters of a Broker Profile Matrix associated with a
trader console, the trader console comprising an intermediary third
party user console communicably disposed between a bidder user

console and broker user console, operates to buy products or
services from the broker user console and to resell the bought
products and services to the bidder user console; responsive to
finding matching unsealed bids, delivers the matching unsealed
bids to the trader console wherein delivery of delivery of sealed
bids to the trader console is prevented; and displays on the trader
console the delivered matching unsealed bids to a trader console
user.